



WINTER WEATHER AND ANIMALS

It is important to consider the needs of our animal friends as we approach the cold, wet months of winter. Although most animals have fur coats, this alone does not provide adequate protection from the elements. Therefore, An ideal shelter would provide protection from falling rain, both with a roof and sides to prevent wind-driven rain from entering the shelter.

Q: Are only dogs and cats affected?

A: No, all animals feel the effects of weather. It doesn't matter if they are mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, or invertebrates.

Q: What animals are the most susceptible?

A: All animals are affected, but the ones that are most susceptible are the young, old, and immune compromised.

Q: Should I be worried about my horse?

A: Yes, horses can easily fall in muddy stalls or pastures. They can also develop health issues such as thrush and rain rot due to prolonged exposure to moisture.

Q: Should I have other concerns?

A: Yes, other concerns should include proper storage of food. Wet food will spoil and can cause health issues if consumed. Animal waste should be picked up daily to prevent contamination of local water supplies and waterways.

Prolonged exposure can cause:

- ☐ Hypothermia
- ☐ Fungal infections
- ☐ Weakened immune systems
- ☐ Secondary infections
- ☐ Death